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GUNUNG SANTUBONG — Where Nature Meets Culture

Edited by Mohd-Azlan, Tuen, Tisen & Das

Life from Headwaters to the Coast GUNUNG SANTUBONG

Where Nature Meets Culture

Edited by

Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan

Andrew Alek Tuen

Oswald Braken Tisen

Indraneil Das



Natural History
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GUNUNG SANTUBONG

The Santubong Peninsula is steeped in history and antiquity, and is easily accessible throughout the year. The Peninsula harbours mudflats, mangroves forest, mixed dipterocarp and cloud forests that show a vast vegetational diversity- from stunted to towering trees, with a matching variety of flowers, fruits, creeping epiphytes and ferns. Its diverse habitats are home to many endemic plants and animals, including numerous species of conservation importance. The many ecotourism elements put in one place, make Santubong unique.

The history of biodiversity research in Santubong is a long one, and preceding that, legends and archaeological interests, have been the subject of scholarly attention. Such information has been integrated into this work through specially commissioned chapters by leading specialists.

This book aims to enlighten and educate nature enthusiasts about this region and draws material from researches and experiences of various specialists- scientists, sociologists, ethnographers and historians, and a review of literature. It is splendidly illustrated throughout to document a magnificent site for naturalists, ecotourists as well as researchers.

The introductory chapters gives us insights into myths and legends of the Santubong region. The fascinating history of the Peninsula is recounted next, which includes pioneering studies of its biological diversity. The geology of Santubong is brought to life through the images of landscapes and rock formation, specially commissioned for the work. The plant chapters showcase the uniqueness of the flora diversity of the Santubong area, from the unusual insectivorous pitcher plants to the towering dipterocarp trees. The animal biodiversity covers an array of taxa that includes both invertebrates (butterflies, dragonflies and stream macrofauna) and the vertebrates (fishes, frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals). The sociological elements that hinges on the biodiversity of Santubong are covered under the human use of natural resources and ecotourism. The final chapter on e-biodiversity binds all this information together.

The research in Santubong Peninsula would not been possible if not for the grant by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia, under the Niche Grant Scheme (NRGS) that was awarded to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. This project is aimed to meeting the following targets:

- i. to assess the biotic diversity of basins of rivers arising in the mountains of western Sarawak, and traversing the plains to the coast by employing selected plant, invertebrate and vertebrate groups as surrogates of biodiversity, in order to estimate species turnover with stream order, gradients and elevation and local habitat diversity;
- ii. to study life histories of selected species of conservation importance, including both plant and animal taxa.
- iii. to analyse effects of landscape change, chiefly habitat fragmentation through anthropogenic activities, on biodiversity, at both community and population levels.
- iv. to examine human use of natural resources, and develop an applicable environmental model on ecotourism from a holistic perspective.
- v. to synthesize the data from the above activities into an online and/or digital platform, available to decision-makers.

The Editors

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GUNUNG SANTUBONG

Where Nature Meets Culture





Life from Headwaters to the Coast

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**Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan, Andrew Alek Tuen
Oswald Braken Tisen and Indraneil Das**



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Life from Headwaters to the Coast:

Gunung Santubong: Where Nature Meets Culture

Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan, Andrew Alek Tuen, Oswald Braken Tisen and Indraneil Das

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Front cover: A partially cloud-covered summit region of Gunung Santubong. Photo: Hans Hazebroek.

Half-title page: Much of the lower flanks of Gunung Santubong is covered in tall, mixed dipterocarp forest. In places, this forest is rich in lianas, that can form tangles connecting several trees together, as seen in this image. Photo: Hans Hazebroek.

Frontispiece: A bird's eye view of Gunung Santubong. Photo: Chien Lee.

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FOREWORD

The Santubong Peninsula is strategically situated in close proximity to the State Capital of Kuching. Oldtimers and long-term residents are aware of this hidden gem of a nature reserve, that offers to weary city-dwellers, peace and tranquility. Apart from a curious mix of warm sea breeze with crisp mountain air, Santubong offers field naturalists and trekkers outstanding views of rainforest, that is home to many unique species of Bornean lowland flora and fauna.

Recognizing the important role of biodiversity, the State government has initiated measures to mitigate impacts and facilitate its protection and conservation. The forested interior of Santubong Peninsula, where diverse habitats are found, support numerous species of plants and animals, some of which are Bornean endemics, or one of conservation importance. In the current socio-politic climate, it is important to highlight economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Raising awareness on our natural heritage is an important step in achieving both national and international biodiversity conservation targets and reducing biodiversity loss, through safeguarding of our ecosystems.

UNIMAS has put biodiversity and environmental conservation at the forefront of its research agenda, and is one of the three research pillars of the young university's niche area. Recognizing its strength, both in resources and expertise, the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia, has awarded UNIMAS a generous grant from the Niche Research Grant Scheme (NRGS) to facilitate research and conservation awareness of the biodiversity of western Sarawak.

UNIMAS being located in Sarawak, with its vast wealth of biodiversity and a multi-ethnic population, its academics collaborate with local communities, governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as national and international researchers to study and conserve tropical biodiversity, in its efforts to raise awareness on conservation and management.



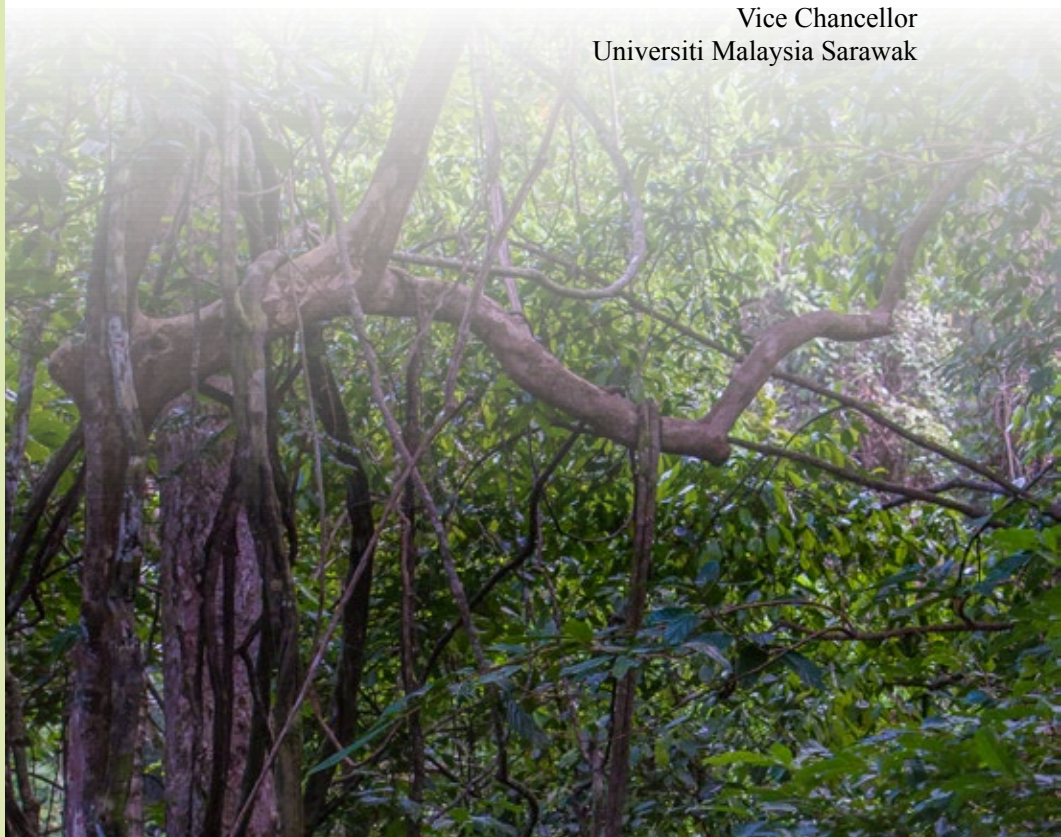
FOREWORD

The publication is the result of such collaborative work with State agencies of Sarawak, such as the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Forest Department Sarawak, and other national bodies, such as Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Our researchers are passionate about their work and tireless in communicating. With this in mind, this richly-illustrated book was brought together to capture the uniqueness and beauty of Santubong Peninsula, targetting the general public, especially students, researchers, natural resource managers and ecotourists to the State.

It thus gives me great pleasure to write the Foreword to this informative book, containing 22 chapters on various aspects of biodiversity of Santubong Peninsula. I congratulate the authors for writing a lucid account of their often-technical work for a lay audience. In the beauty of the flora and fauna depicted through the photographs here, I hope city-dwellers can appreciate an important part of our Sarawak heritage. I hope this volume will be useful to all stakeholders, be it the business sector or the wider public, to all of whom we remain connected through our reliance on biodiversity.

Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohamad Kadim Suaidi

Vice Chancellor
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak



PREFACE

Sarawak is located in one of the world's megadiversity regions of Sundaland, and is home to a vast variety of forests, from mangrove forests in the lowlands to the cloud forests on mountaintops, where unique habitats harboured are home to some of the world's rarest and most threatened species.

Biodiversity is one of the top National agenda, whereby the National Policy on Biodiversity 2016–2025 was formulated to conserve the country's biodiversity and to ensure that its components are safeguarded without hindering the progress and socio-economic development of the nation and its people. Recognizing a paramount need for biodiversity conservation, the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia, under its inaugural Niche Research Grant Scheme (NRGS), awarded Universiti Malaysia Sarawak a grant, entitled "Biodiversity of western Sarawak: Life from headwaters to the coast". This project sits within the University's niche area in biodiversity and environmental conservation, and aims to investigate the patterns of species and regional habitat diversity, from western tip of Borneo to the south-west of Sarawak. Within the auspices of this project, a series of scientific expeditions were carried out in 2014–2018, complementing the ongoing long-term research in the Santubong Peninsular.

Many of the charismatic species are known to occur only in totally protected areas, which includes Santubong National Park, located in the Santubong Peninsula. Knowing the distribution of species in a dense tropical rainforest has always been a challenging undertaking. These information, however, are essential in understanding the ecology of tropical rainforests, which is important in the design and implementation of management plans for protected areas. Santubong National Park, endowed with a lush forest cover, naturally is home to a diverse flora and fauna, and a backdrop of mountains overlooking the sea, offers ecotourism potential. Tourists can trek the forest trails, do birdwatching and encounter rainforest mammals, and visit the waterfalls, and can get a chance to watch whales and dolphins on the sea-facing side of the mountain.

This third exploration marks the progress of a five-year project that started in 2014 in Tanjung Datu National Park, Gunung Penrissen in 2016 and will continue eastwards in the following year. This well-illustrated volume is thus part of series of publications on the targeted study areas within western Sarawak.

PREFACE

The geology and geomorphology chapter reveals interesting facts on the origin and evolution of the geological features of the Santubong area. The chapter sets the scene for the archeology, history and legends of Santubong Peninsula. The floral components demonstrate the richness of the herbaceous flora and tree species.

The fauna studied include the macroinvertebrates, insects, molluscs, fishes, frogs, lizards, snakes, birds, bats, rodents, shrews and larger mammals. Information on how anthropomorphic activities relate to biodiversity is also a part of the research, where the dependence of humans on natural resources is highlighted, demonstrating how we fit into the mosaic of a natural landscape.

The human and social component describes the use of natural resources by local communities, and a chapter on ecotourism enumerates how biodiversity, geological and cultural features of the site can benefit the State's effort to promote tourism.

An e-biodiversity platform would ultimately be made available for all the sites covered under the project, synthesizing the data and technologies developed during the project.

We intend to present the significant results of the research for local stakeholders, management authorities and for the general public. It is hoped that nature enthusiast and those who are interested in tropical biodiversity will find this book informative. Finally, we hope that this work will help enhance knowledge and awareness on a national heritage site.

Wan Hashim bin Wan Ibrahim

Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation),
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Haji Zolkipli Mohamad Aton

Chief Executive Officer,
Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd

INTRODUCTION

Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan, Andrew Alek Tuen and Indraneil Das

The Santubong massif towers over the adjacent lowlands of north-western Borneo, offering forested refugia ranging from lowland forests and hill dipterocarps and mangrove swamps, as well as smaller areas with blackwater swamps. However, for its unparalleled biodiversity, unprecedented levels of anthropogenic activities now jeopardize the Peninsula. In the struggle to achieve high-income nation status, one sometimes forgets the importance to consider the requirements to maintain biological diversity. Development often alters ecosystems, fragmenting forests that create new habitats with its own assemblages of introduced plants and animals, which may result in the removal of native species. Actions to mitigate such threats are important to prevent the significant loss of biodiversity. The presence of species of conservation importance in a forest has certainly influenced some reserve selection. The protected areas of Sarawak now contain remnant examples of what were once some of the most diverse and continuous mature rainforests in the world.

The Santubong Peninsula has a long history, with evidence of early Hindu influence and popular legends. One of the early administrative divisions of the Brunei Sultanates was in Santubong, and attracted traders and seafarers from far and wide, leading to early coastal settlements, mostly in the western part of the Peninsula. Santubong Peninsula became known to the scientific world when Alfred Russel Wallace wrote his first major paper in 1855 on the theory of evolution via natural selection, now popularly known as “The Sarawak Law”. Wallace collected specimens from along various parts of Sungei Sarawak, including Santubong Peninsula, amassing over 25,000 insect specimens, mostly beetles and moths. Arguably less impressive was his vertebrate collections, many of which are now lodged at the Natural History Museum in London.

The Santubong Peninsula, located within the western Sarawak’s forest complex, has a number of natural attraction and activities that are interesting for visitors, throughout the year. Located close to the capital, it sits astride modern amenities and the wilderness, providing an easy introduction to the best of what Borneo has to offer. The Peninsula has attracted various forms of development, including tourism products to help facilitate the current socio-economic needs mostly related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Recognizing the importance of the area, emphasis has been given to the management and protection of its natural resources.

The core mountainous landscape within the Santubong Peninsula was gazetted as a National Park under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance (1998) in February 2007, in order to protect the unique habitat of the coastal hill forest. The 1,410 hectare forested area is rich in biodiversity with several forest types mangroves, mix dipterocarps, *Kerangas* and mossy forests at its highest elevation of around 810 m above sea level. Transitional mixed dipterocarp-kerangas forests are often found in between these forest types in the National Park. The thickets, hanging on steep hillsides over the picturesque rock coastline are rather uncommon with the sharply-inclined surfaces forming sphinx-like boulders along waterways. Habitat heterogeneity within the Peninsula attracts over 100 species of bird species, including the charismatic Rhinoceros Hornbill. It is also home to many endemic invertebrates and vertebrates, as well as species of conservation importance, including the Proboscis Monkey, and River Dolphins, which abounds along its coasts. The sea to mountain experience enables many to appreciate nature, especially from a breathtaking perspective at Santubong's peak.

In the current socio-political climate, it is important to highlight economic valuation to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Raising awareness on our biodiversity is essential in meeting the national biodiversity targets and reducing biodiversity loss. One hopes this book inspires readers to be more conscious of the great wealth that we have inherited and entrusted with, to pass on to future generations.

We are grateful to the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Malaysia for financial support of our project on the biodiversity of western Sarawak, under the Niche Research Grant Scheme. Prof Lo May Chiun and her staff at the Research and Innovation Management Centre of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak ensure the smooth running of the five-year project.

The Expedition to Gunung Santubong was successful on account of our partnership with the Sarawak Forestry Corporation. We also thank Rahim Bugo and his staff at the Permai Rainforest Resort, Santubong, for hosting our stay during part of the Expedition.

We thank the following colleagues for reviewing one or more manuscripts: Kraig Adler, Aaron M. Bauer, Charles Clarke, Choong Chen Yen, Geoffrey Davison, Rory Dow, Kelvin Egay, Dato Sri Gathorne, the Earl of Cranbrook, Ulmar Grafe, Melvin Gumal, Jason Hon, Abdul Latiff Mohamad, Liew Thor-Seng, Lim Boo Liat, Kelvin Kok Peng Lim, Daniel Lindner, Giana Minton, Suhaili Mokhtar, Gabriel Tonga Noweg, Albert Orr, Katja Rembold, Menno Schilthuisen, Tan Heok Hui, Jayaraj Vijaya Kumaran, Arthur van Vliet and Mario Antoine Wannier. Genevieve V. A. Gee served as copy editor of the volume.

Finally, we thank Chan Hin Ching for page layout and Datuk Chan Chew Lun, Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn Bhd and Jane Labadin, UNIMAS Publisher, for arranging this publication.

Of Sultans and Datu: Weaving Santubong's History and Myth to Life

Kelvin Egay

The Santubong Peninsula is a towering feature that dominates the landscape of north-western coast of Sarawak. At 810 m, the mountain peak is visible from Kuching in the south, from Bako in the east and Telaga Air to the west. On a clear day, it can even be seen from Samarahan, a flatland, 50 km south-east of the Peninsula. There also lies a Malay village by the same name on the southern foot of mountain, at the point where the mouth of Sungei Sarawak opens at Salak Bay and meets the South China Sea. The sea has been the community's main source of livelihood for many generations, while the mangrove and forests surrounding the mountain provided them with resources for building materials.

Santubong is not only important to the local communities. It has become a popular retreat for European expatriates since James Brooke's arrival at Sarawak. Harold H. Everett and John Hewitt (1909:1) noted that Santubong



Fig. 1. View of Gunung Santubong from Kampung Santubong.



Fig. 2. Sultan Tengah's Mausoleum, located on Jalan Sultan Tengah, just across the entrance to Kampung Santubong.

"...affords to them the only seaside resort within easy reach of Kuching, the capital of Sarawak." Or as Margaret Brooke (1913:185) wrote of a little village in Santubong "...where the Rajah had built a bungalow for the use of Europeans requiring change of air to the sea." Of course, Santubong's landscape has experienced dramatic changes since then. In the past 30 years, road access into the peninsula opened other economic opportunities for the local inhabitants, enabling them to diversify their livelihood. Tourism activities such as jungle hiking, mountain climbing, dolphin watching, annual music and cultural festivals put Santubong as a must-go tourist destination. Today, several hotel resorts dot the western coastline of the peninsula. But there is more to Santubong than the beauty of its mountain and beaches.

Before proceeding with the story, it is worth noting that the term 'Sarawak' originally referred to the "Sarawak River area and the territory accessible from it" (Walker, 2002:7). Abang Abdul Razak (1976) added that in the early 18th century, Santubong was one of the several municipalities of Sarawak. As consolidated by James Brooke, the name denoted the territory ranging from Tanjung Datu to Samarahan River in the east. It shared its southern border with the government of Sambas, in today's West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Consequently, the historical accounts recorded in between these territorial boundaries have laid the chronology of Sarawak that we read in our history books today.

However, history can be selective in telling its story. Our history sometimes forgets that Sarawak had its own Sultan before James Brooke became Rajah in 1841. In 1582, Sarawak was under the rule of Brunei's ninth Sultan Muhammad Hassan. When Sultan Muhammad Hassan died in 1598, his eldest son ascended the throne in Brunei as Sultan Abdul Jalilul Akbar. But his younger brother, Pengiran Muda Tengah, was displeased and, to appease his brother, Sultan Abdul Jalilul Akbar, in 1599, appointed him Sultan of Sarawak. Pengiran Muda Tengah adopted the title Sultan Ibrahim Ali Omar. But he is popularly remembered as Sultan Tengah. In Sarawak, together with his own loyal supporters, nobles, and 1,000 warriors, it is thought that Sultan Tengah built his capital in Santubong. However, the stories do vary as many others also wrote that he established his administrative centre in Sungai Bedil, in present-day Kuching.

Sultan Tengah led a rather fascinating life. Once he established his kingdom, Sultan Tengah appointed his ministers to preside over Sarawak's governmental affairs. The titles he gave to these appointees included Datu Patinggi, Datu Shahbandar, Datu Amar and Datu Temenggong, still used today for state dignitaries. When Sultan Tengah left for Johor to visit his aunt, the wife of Sultan of Johor at the time, he left Sarawak to be governed by his ministers. But on his way back to Sarawak from Johor, Sultan Tengah and his entourage were caught in a storm, and his ship was wrecked at Sukadana (in modern-day Kalimantan Barat). Stranded at Sukadana, Sultan Tengah married Ratu Surya Kusuma, the sister of the Hindu king of Sukadana, Penambahan Giri Mustika.

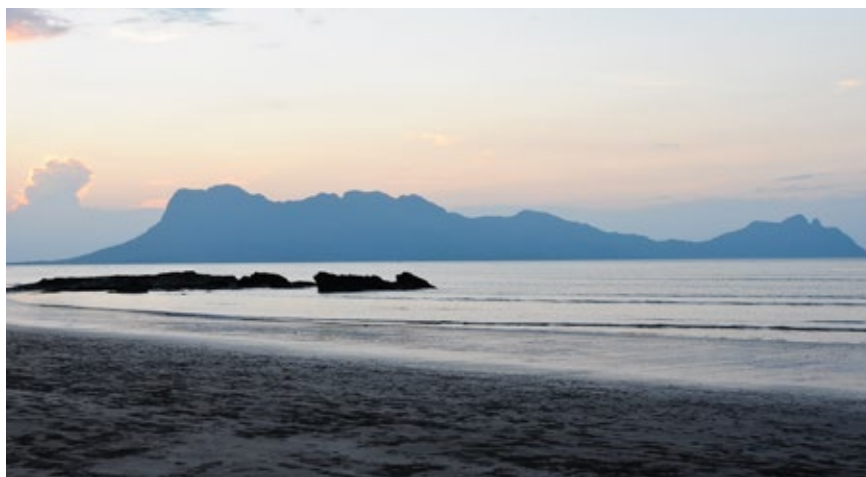


Fig. 3. View of the Santubong Peninsula from Teluk Assam, Bako.

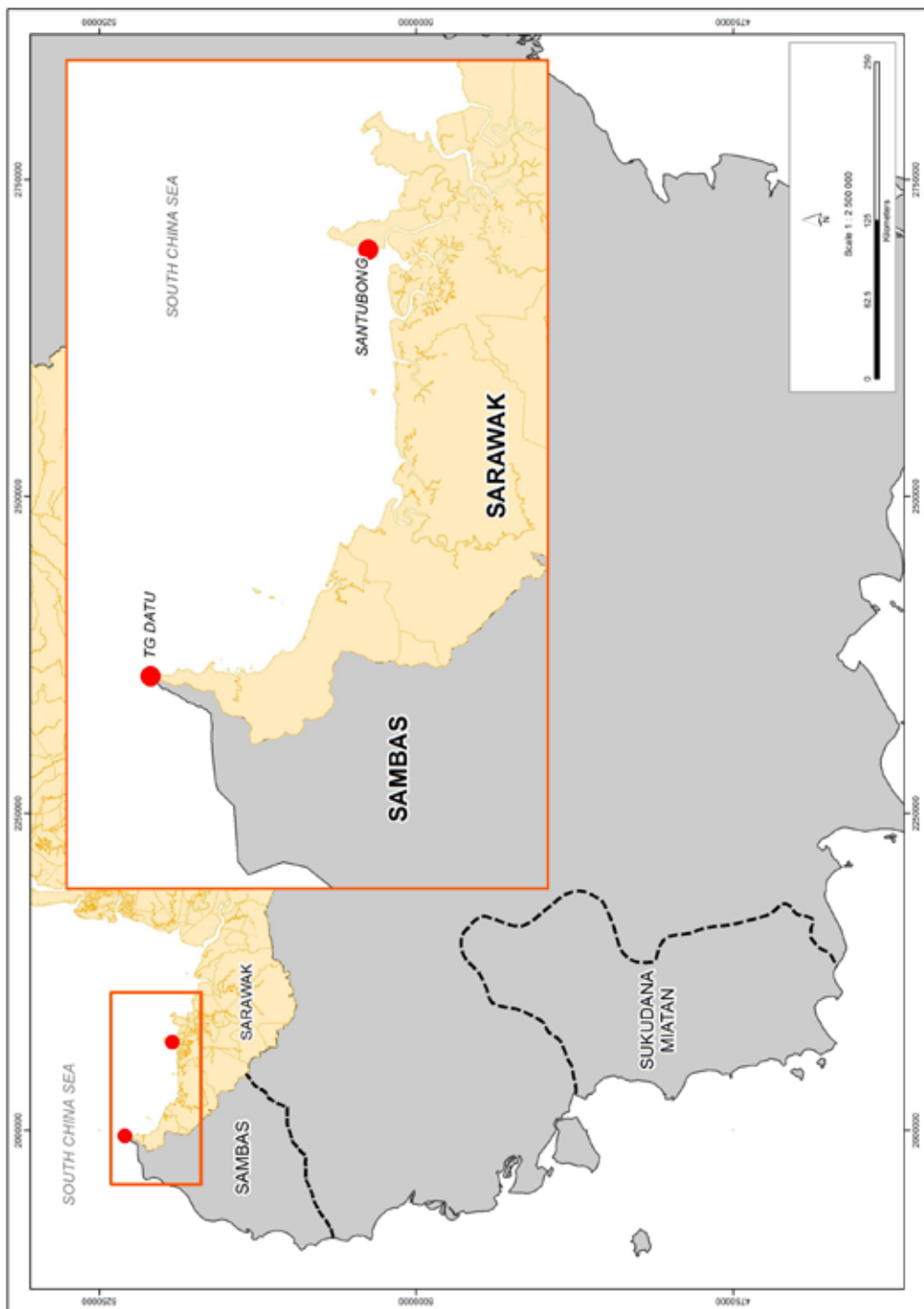


Fig. 4. Map of Tanjung Datu and Santubong, also indicating the Kingdoms of Sarawak, Sambas and Sukudana/Matan during the time of Sultan Tengah in the 16th–17th centuries.



Fig. 5. Batu Buaya - the local folklore claims this to be the severed head of an enormous crocodile, during Datu Merpati's time. This is also the area where Sultan Tengah was killed upon his return to Sarawak in 1641 by one of his companions.

In the early 1600s, Sultan Tengah and his wife left Sukadana and made their way north to Kota Bangun in Sambas, West Kalimantan. There, their son Radin Sulaiman was born. At the same time, further up the Sambas River in Kota Lama lay a Majapahit Hindu kingdom under the king Ratu Sepudak. The king was very welcoming and generous to Sultan Tengah's family. Eventually, Radin Sulaiman married Ratu Sepudak's daughter, and had a son called Radin Bima who later became the Sultan of Sambas in the 1660s. Radin Bima took the name Sultan Muhammad Tajuddin. But many years before then, Sultan Tengah and his followers had already left Sambas for Matan, where they stayed for several years before making their way back to Sarawak. In a cruel twist of fate, when Sultan Tengah and his family finally arrived in Sarawak, he was killed by one of his followers at Batu Buaya in Santubong. The year was 1641. With Sultan Tengah's tragic demise, Brunei took control of Sarawak until James Brooke appeared on the shores of Santubong two centuries later. Sultan Tengah was the first and last Sultan of Sarawak. His royal mausoleum stands today near the foot of Gunung Santubong.

Common mythology of Santubong usually tells a story of jealousy and rage between two sisters, who were princesses from the *Kayangan* (abode of the gods). Their names were Puteri Santubong and Puteri Sejinjang and, depending on the versions of the story, they both wanted to marry a prince

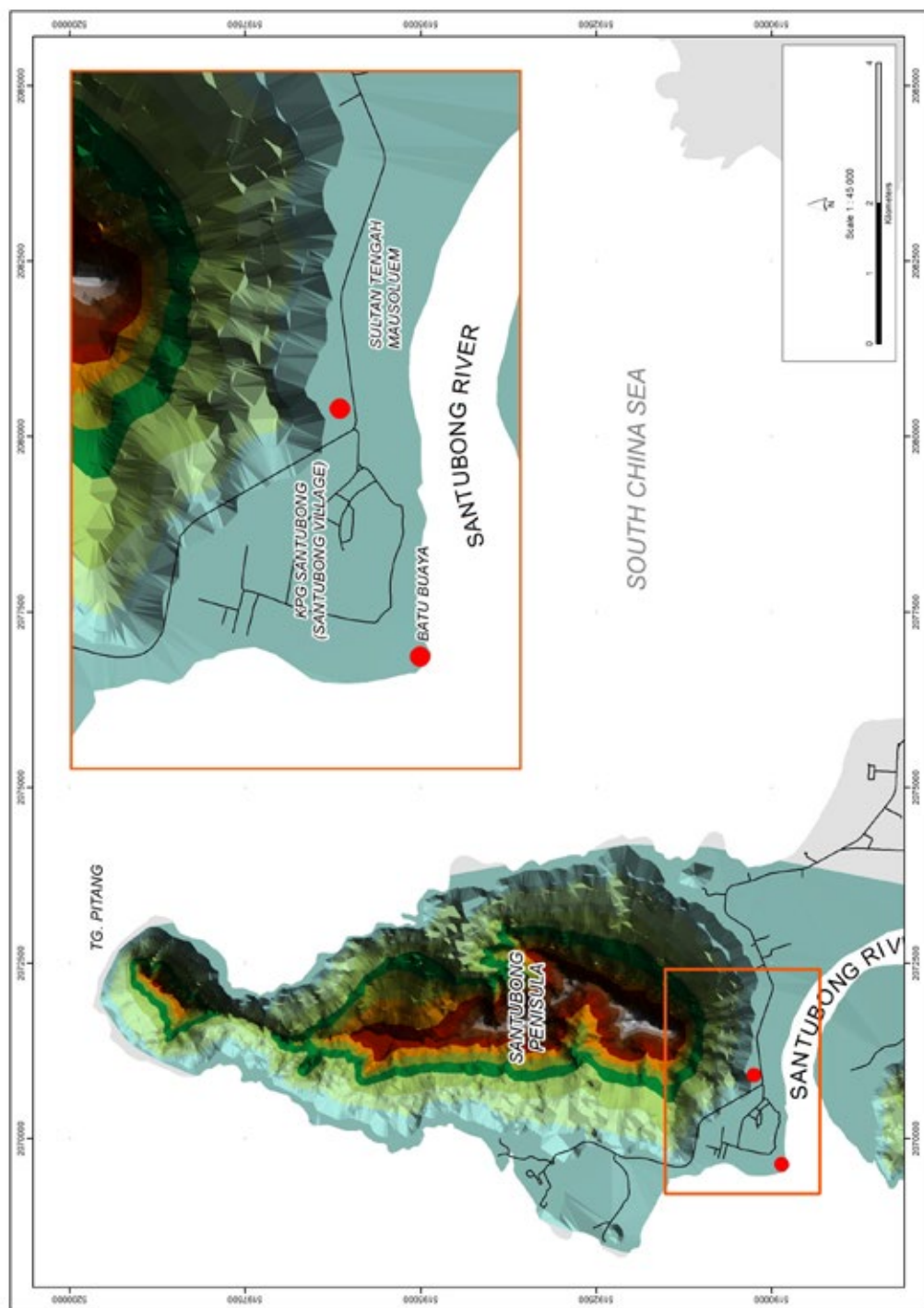


Fig. 6. Map of the Santubong Peninsula, Kampung Santubong, and location of Batu Buaya and Sultan Tengah's Mausoleum.

who was said to be from the neighbouring Gunung Serapi. Puteri Sejinjang became jealous when Puteri Santubong turned out to be pregnant and decided to kill her. Both princesses fought to their violent death: Puteri Sejinjang crushed her sister's head with a pounding pestle, but before she died Puteri Santubong managed to slam her sister into a weaving loom and sliced her body into pieces. Thus, it is said that Puteri Sejinjang's body parts have formed the group of islands – Talang-Talang, Satang, Kera – that now lie scattered between Tanjung Datu and the Santubong Peninsula. After her head was severely pounded, the pregnant Puteri Santubong also laid dead on her back, and turned into the shape of Gunung Santubong today.

But there are other stories from Santubong that are not as violent as these two mythical sibling rivals. These stories are also independent from the main narratives that revolve around the Brooke dynasty, Brunei sultanate, and Sultan Tengah. Like many traditional Bornean narratives, stories from Santubong can ignore that imaginary boundary between the mythical and the real world. One such story tells the life of Abang Pata, whose family were descendants of Santubong's early pioneers. He was the son of Datuk Nonong, the governor of Santubong municipality in the early 18th century. The story of Abang Pata basically centres on his relationship with the environment around Santubong's peninsula. It narrates not only the customs, traditions and socio-politics of Santubong at the time – for instance, business trading with the neighbouring lands such as Java and Sulawesi, collecting turtle eggs at Pulau Talang-Talang, encounter with piracy, his marriage to Dang Halimah; but it also tells of Abang Pata's experiences with the spiritual world such as his battle against a mythical tiger and giant serpent, his ability to transfer himself from one distant location to another by blinking his eyes, and his marriage to the *bunian* (celestial spirit) princess of Gunung Santubong, who could transform herself into a white cat.

Apparently, and among others, Abang Pata's story is not the only one told of a man marrying a spirit on Gunung Santubong. A friend of the Ranees of Sarawak told her a story of a man whose name was Haji Hassan who lived alone in Santubong. He was known to be a man without fault, a soul so pure that his blood run white in his veins. He was later married to a spirit lady, the daughter of the moon, whom he moved in with to the mountain. Becoming weary of his perfect life on the mountain, Haji Hassan returned to the human world below and left the daughter of the moon alone in the mountain with great sadness. When he returned to the mountain more than a month later, the daughter of the moon had vanished. Today, whenever a full moon shines on top of Gunung Santubong, those who know this story would say the daughter of the moon, Puteri Rembulan, has returned to the mountain.

When it comes to the convergence between the history and myth of Santubong, no other stories are as illustrious as the legend of Datu Merpati. Many believed that he left traces of his existence on the landscapes in and beyond Santubong; from the western parts of Kalimantan all the way north to Brunei. Some cultural groups residing between these regions would have Datu Merpati, blended in their oral histories, albeit with minor variations of names and detail. No one knows the actual time of Datu Merpati's existence. Some literature places Datu Merpati's existence to the period of Majapahit Empire, which would be around 14th–15th century.

Datu Merpati is not just a mythological hero who exists in Santubong's local folklores. He was believed to have established a polity in Santubong. When Brunei, the Brooke and the subsequent governments ruled over Santubong, Datu Merpati's lineage carried on with this leadership. Referring to the story of Datu Merpati and the political significance of Santubong, Harold Everett and John Hewitt (1909: 17) stated that Santubong has "in the past times been the home of influential Malay chiefs when probably Sarawak village was of very minor importance." Datu Merpati himself was said to belong to the royal lineage from Java. He was the son of Raja Paribaita Sari, who came down from *kayangan* and decided to stay on earth, probably somewhere in Java. Depending on the many versions of the Datu Merpati story, among other names, he was originally known as Datu Merpatih, Betara Raden Merpati, Raden Menteri Adipati, Radin Depati and Radin Pati.

The stories of his adventures also vary. Some relate that he and his siblings, Radin Urei Sri and Radin Gusti, came to Johor during their youth, when their boat drifted off course and landed on its shore. Another version claimed that they went to Johor to seek refuge after they failed to claim the throne at Langka Pura. While in Johor, Datu Merpati and his siblings were welcomed by the Sultan of Johor. It was in Johor that Datu Merpati married the daughter of the Sultan, princess Dayang Suri. After their marriage, Datu Merpati and his wife, and his siblings set sail. A huge storm blew their ship to Sikudana (or Sukadana, probably the same place where Sultan Tengah's ship got wrecked several hundred years later). Although the king of Sikudana was kind to Datu Merpati's entourage, the latter decided it was time to return to Johor. As they left Sikudana and sailed into the sea, they faced another storm and again, blew Datu Merpati's ship to Sambas. The king of Sambas was accommodating to Datu Merpati and his companions and allowed them to stay in Sambas. Datu Merpati's brother Radin Urei Sri married the princess of Sambas. Radin Urei Sri eventually became the king of Sambas.

Some time later, Datu Merpati and his wife Dayang Suri left Sambas to return to Johor. But on their journey, they changed their minds, and instead of